

**BOARD OF PODIATRIC MEDICAL EXAMINERS
OPEN SESSION MEETING MINUTES**

June 12, 2008

Room 108/109

The Open Session meeting of the Maryland Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners was held on Thursday, June 12, 2008 in Room 108/109, 4201 Patterson Avenue. The meeting was called to order at 1:15 p.m. by President Dr. Ira Gottlieb. Board members present were Drs. David Freedman, Tanya Sellers-Hannibal, Dennis Weber and Mrs. Ernestine Jones Jolivet. Also present were Eva Schwartz, Executive Director, Richard Bloom, AAG, Board Counsel, Sally Reier, Administrative Officer, and Oladuni Akinpelu, Administrative Specialist. Guests present were Lynda Lardner-McGinnis, D.P.M., Maryland Podiatric Medical Association (MPMA) representative, Paula Hollinger, Associate Director of Health Work Force, and Sharon Bloom, Executive Assistant.

A. MINUTES:

The minutes from the May 8, 2008 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved as submitted.

B. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Authorization of Professional Corporation

- Request from Dr. Feldman for Board approval to become a shareholder in The Orthopaedic Center, P.A.

Mr. Bloom stated that the law in Maryland does not provide for a podiatrist's inclusion as a shareholder in a professional corporation of physicians; however, the law does allow boards to develop regulations that would allow it. A professional relationship structured as a Limited Liability Corporation (LLC) allows for the inclusion of podiatrists with physicians.

A professional Board member had previously identified a developing national trend to include podiatrists as experts in orthopaedic groups. The Board discussed considering the development of regulations which would allow podiatrists to be included in professional corporations with physicians.

The Board requested that Ms. Schwartz contact the Board of Physicians and identify the appropriate staff member(s) to invite to our July Board meeting to discuss this issue. Staff was requested to send Dr. Feldman a letter informing him that the Law in Maryland does not allow for a podiatrist's inclusion as a shareholder in a professional corporation of physicians.

2. Self-Referral

Mr. Bloom is researching self-referral issues and will provide an overview to the Board at the July meeting.

C. NEW BUSINESS:

1. FY 2009 Podiatry Board Appropriations

Ms. Schwartz informed the Board that the Fiscal Year 2009 appropriation for the Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners is three hundred three thousand four hundred ninety dollars (\$303,490.00). Ms. Schwartz stated that the Board's annual revenue is approximately two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000.00) and does not meet the projected expenses. Ms. Schwartz identified the dramatic decline in new license applications and increases in indirect costs including network support and rent as contributing factors to this projected deficit. An assessment resulting from new rules issued by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) that change the way states account for the future cost of health and other non-pension benefits for retirees was also identified as a factor contributing to the projected deficit.

Ms. Schwartz proposed increasing licensing fees from eight hundred fifty dollars (\$850.00) to one thousand fifty dollars (\$1, 050.00) per two (2) year licensure cycle to increase revenue in response to this projected budget deficit. The Board discussed presenting an educational seminar as a possible method of generating revenue.

2. Proposed Increase in Licensing Fees

The Board discussed increasing licensing fees in response to the projected budgetary deficit. The Board unanimously approved an increase in licensing fees from eight hundred fifty dollars (\$850.00) to one thousand fifty dollars (\$1, 050.00) per two (2) year licensure cycle. Staff was requested to submit the requested change to the Regulations Coordinator.

3. Nominations to serve on the Board

Ms. Schwartz informed the Board that the Governor's Office of Appointments has identified a consumer member who is awaiting notification of appointment to serve on the Board.

The second terms of two professional members of the Board expire this year. Dr. Lardner-McGinnis stated that the MPMA nominated four podiatrists to fill the two vacancies for professional members on the Board. The Board is awaiting notification of the appointment of new Board members from the Governor's Office of Appointments.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Maryland State Government Annotated "10-501 et seq." the Board unanimously approved a motion to close its meeting at 1:40 p.m., in room 108/109 for the purpose of complying with the Maryland Medical Practice Act that prevents public disclosures about particular proceedings or matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernestine Jones Jolivet, Secretary/Treasurer